

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
EASTERN DIVISION**

IKECHUKWU HYGINIUS OKORIE

PLAINTIFF

v.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:24-cv-52-TBM-RPM

JAMES PONCHO

DEFENDANT

ORDER

This matter came before the Court on Defendant James Poncho's Motion to Dismiss [22] and Plaintiff Ikechukwu Hyginus Okorie's Motion to Disqualify Joseph R. Tullos as Counsel for the Defendant [25]. At the hearing conducted on July 24, 2025,¹ the Court, having considered the pleadings, the record, and the oral arguments of the parties, and the relevant legal authority, announced on the record its detailed findings and conclusions.

For all of the reasons stated at the hearing:

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Defendant James Poncho's Motion to Dismiss [22] is DENIED.

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Plaintiff Ikechukwu Hyginus Okorie's Motion to Disqualify Joseph R. Tullos as Counsel for the Defendant [25] is DENIED.

SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED, the 25th day of July, 2025.


TAYLOR B. McNEEL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

¹ In accordance with the Order Setting Hearings [42] from June 4, 2025, this case was scheduled for a hearing at 2:00 p.m., along with eight other cases, as part of a focused two-day period for cases involving Dr. Okorie. The Order [42] also stated reasons for why a hearing was appropriate.